IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A communication method for limiting transmission rate of data being transmitted from a server to a requesting computer in response to a user's input, said method comprising steps of:

accepting a user request for a specified data item at a requesting computer, the specified data item to be delivered in its entirety prior to being accessed;

accepting, at the requesting computer in response to accepting the user request for the specified data item, a user input speed setting, wherein the user input speed setting is not related to a speed that is associated with the specified data item;

generating, at the requesting computer in response to accepting the user input speed setting, a speed indication signal that comprises a maximum transmission rate to be used in transmitting the specified data item from the server to the requesting computer, wherein the maximum transmission rate is based upon the user input speed setting and is less than the data rate of the data link and less than the data rate capacity of the requesting computer;

receiving, at a server from a~the requesting computer, a request for a~the specified data item, the specified data item to be delivered in its entirety prior to being accessed by the requesting computer;

receiving, at the server from the requesting computer in conjunction with receiving the request for the specified data item, a the speed indication signal that comprises an indicated speed of transmission specifying a maximum transmission rate to be used in transmitting the specified data item from the server to the requesting computer; and

transmitting the specified data item from the server to the requesting computer, the transmitting comprising limiting, by the server, an average rate of transmission while sending at least a portion of the specified data item across a data link from the server to the requesting computer to be not greater than the maximum transmission rate represented within the speed indication signal received from the requesting computer, wherein the maximum transmission rate is less than the data rate of the data link and less than the data rate capacity of the requesting computer.

2.   (Currently Amended) A communication method according to claim 1 in which the transmitting step comprises substeps of:

determining, at the server in response to receiving the speed indication signal, a block size based at least on the~~indicated speed of transmission~~ speed indication signal;

determining, at the server in response to receiving the speed indication signal, a period based at least on the ~~indicated speed of transmission~~ speed indication signal, wherein the period is longer than the period required to transmit the block size at the data rate of the data link; and

transmitting, from the server in response to receiving the speed indication signal, a plurality of blocks of data, each of the blocks having the block size and being transmitted at intervals substantially equal to the period.

3.   (Previously Presented) A communication method according to claim 1, further comprising steps of:

accessing a remote computer indicated in an address included in the request, wherein the remote computer is not one of the server and the requesting computer; and

receiving, at the server, the specified data item from the remote computer.

4.   (Previously Presented) A communication method according to claim 1 further comprising steps of reading the specified data item from a memory associated with the server.

5.   (Cancelled)

6.   (Currently Amended) A communication system for limiting a transmission rate of transmitting data from a server to a requesting computer in response to a user's input, the communication system comprising:

a means for accepting a user request for a specified data item at a requesting computer, the specified data item to be delivered in its entirety prior to being accessed;

a means for accepting, at the requesting computer in response to accepting the user request for the specified data item, a user input speed setting, wherein the user input speed setting is not related to a speed that is associated with the specified data item;

a means for generating, at the requesting computer in response to accepting the user input speed setting, a speed indication signal that comprises a maximum transmission rate to be used in transmitting the specified data item from the server to the requesting computer, wherein the maximum transmission rate is based upon the user input speed setting and is less than the data rate of the data link and less than the data rate capacity of the requesting computer;

a means for receiving, at a server from ~~a~~ the requesting computer, a request for ~~a~~ the specified data item~~, the specified data item to be delivered in its entirety prior to being accessed by the requesting computer~~;

a means for receiving from the requesting computer in conjunction with receiving the request for the specified data item, a speed indication signal ~~that comprises an indicated speed of transmission specifying a maximum transmission rate to be used in transmitting the specified data item from the server to the requesting computer~~; and

a means for transmitting the specified data item from the server to the requesting computer, wherein the means for transmitting limits, at the server, an average rate while sending transmission of at least a portion of the specified data item across a data link from the server to the requesting computer to be not greater than the maximum transmission rate represented within the speed indication signal received from the requesting computer~~, wherein the maximum transmission rate is less than the data rate of the data link and less than the data rate capacity of the requesting computer~~.

7.   (Currently Amended) A communication system according to claim 6 in which the transmitting means comprises:

a means for determining, at the server in response to receiving the speed indication signal, a block size based at least on the speed indication signal ~~indicated speed of transmission~~;

a means for determining, at the server in response to receiving the speed

indication signal, a period based at least on the ~~speed indication signal~~ indicated speed of transmission, wherein the period is longer than the period required to transmit the block size at the data rate of the data link;

a means for transmitting, from the server in response to receiving the speed indication signal, a plurality of blocks of data, each of the blocks having the block size and being transmitted at intervals substantially equal to the period.

8.   (Previously Presented) A communication system according to claim 6, further comprising:

a means for accessing a remote computer indicated in an address included in the request, wherein the remote computer is not one of the server and the requesting computer; and

a means for receiving, at the server, the first specified data item from the remote computer.

9.   (Previously Presented) A communication system according to claim 6 further comprising means for reading the specified data item from a memory associated with the server computer.

10.   (Cancelled)

11.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium containing programming instructions for limiting transmission rate of data being transmitted from a server to a requesting computer in response to a user's input, the ~~data communication comprising~~-programming instructions comprising instructions for:

accepting a user request for a specified data item at a requesting computer, the specified data item to be delivered in its entirety prior to being accessed;

accepting, at the requesting computer in response to accepting the user request for the specified data item, a user input speed setting, wherein the user input speed setting is not related to a speed that is associated with the specified data item;

generating, at the requesting computer in response to accepting the user input speed setting, a speed indication signal that comprises a maximum transmission rate to be used in transmitting the specified data item from the server to the requesting computer, wherein the maximum transmission rate is based upon the user input speed setting and is less than the data rate of the data link and less than the data rate capacity of the requesting computer;

receiving, at a server from ~~a~~ the requesting computer, a request for ~~a~~ the specified data item~~, the specified data item to be delivered in its entirety prior to being accessed by the requesting computer~~;

receiving at the server from the requesting computer in conjunction with receiving the request for the specified data item, ~~a~~ the speed indication signal ~~that comprises an indicated speed of transmission specifying a maximum transmission rate to be used in transmitting the specified data item from the server to the requesting computer~~; and

transmitting the specified data item from the server to the requesting computer, the transmitting comprising limiting, by the server, an average rate of transmission while sending at least a portion of the specified data item across a data link from the server to the requesting computer to be not greater than the maximum transmission rate represented within the speed indication signal received from the requesting computer~~, wherein the maximum transmission rate is less than the data rate of the data link and less than the data rate capacity of the requesting computer~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium according to claim 11 wherein the programming instruction for transmitting comprise programming instructions for:

determining, at the server in response to receiving the speed indication signal, a block size based at least on the speed indication signal ~~indicated speed of transmission~~;

determining, at the server in response to receiving the speed indication signal, a period based at least on the speed indication signal ~~indicated speed of transmission~~, wherein the period is longer than the period required to transmit the block size at the data rate of the data link; and

transmitting, from the server in response to receiving the speed indication signal, a plurality of blocks of data, each of the blocks having the block size and being transmitted at intervals substantially equal to the period.

13. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 11, further comprising programming instructions for:

accessing a remote computer indicated in an address included in the request, wherein the remote computer is not one of the server and the requesting computer; and

receiving, at the server, the first specified data item from the remote computer.

14. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 11, further comprising programming instructions for reading the specified data item from a memory associated with the server computer.

15-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving at the server, from the requesting computer, a new speed indication signal containing a new indicated speed, the new speed indication signal being received subsequently to the receiving the request and during the transmitting the specified data item; and

adjusting, in response to receiving the new speed indication signal, the average rate of transmission while continuing the transmitting the specified data item to be not greater than the new indicated speed contained within the new speed indication signal, wherein the new indicated speed is less than the data rate of the data link and less than the data rate capacity of the requesting computer.

20.   (Cancelled)

21.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the server comprises a dial-up server.

22.   (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the speed indication signal is a quantity specifying a maximum data transmission rate corresponding to the user input speed setting.

23.   (New) A communication system according to claim 6, wherein the speed indication signal is a quantity specifying a maximum data transmission rate corresponding to the user input speed setting.